Comparative Religion

or Why Christianity is Worth Propagating

	God	Sin	Salvation	Sacrifices	Fruits
PAGANISM	Shadowy and vague. No name for, not even an idea of, Supreme Creator; called by some "the Great Great!"	False faiths have little to say about sin. Fear of Demons	Transmigration of life	Food occasionally, lacerations, tattooing, burying alive, e.g., the monks of Thibet	Inhumanity and cruelty, drunkenness, immorality, even cannibalism
CONFUCIANISM	Nature worship. A sort of pantheistic dualism: heaven, the supreme Father; and earth, the supreme Mother. The emperor being the son of heaven and interpreter of nature.	"Must establish the virtues of right principles"	Fellowship, and moral education	None, and no prayers. Emperor alone must worship heaven; the people worship ancestors	Filial piety and family unity; a father should conceal a son's dishonesty. Reciprocity (the Golden Rule); and propriety (according to one's lot)
HINDUISM	Really an Indo-European philosophy. Originally monotheistic; then henotheistic, and later grossly polytheistic—330,000,000 gods! Their sacred books, the Vedas.	No real conception of sin	Lapse into the ocean of soul; deliverance from the 8,400,000 rebirths	No need of sacrifice, yet pilgrimages to the Ganges, the Indus, and Benares	Deny all accountability. Caste; hence, no reform and no patriotism. Tendency toward Karma, i.e., the nexus of cause and effect
BUDDHISM	Gautama (*ca.* 550 B.C.) was "the Hindu Luther." Began with Pantheism and developed into Atheism. Buddhism stands to Brahminism as Christianity to Judaism.	Cosmical not personal. Really no conception of sin, only of misery	Nirvana, perfect bliss, as life has been left behind	Mere existence is suffering enough. Obey certain commandments: e.g., do not kill, commit adultery, steal, lie, or get drunk	Pessimism, agnosticism, suicide, the coveted end of life being extinction. Mechanical worship: pray by machinery, "Um, the jewel in the lotus, hum!"
ISLAM	Mohammed born, 571 A.D. Allah—personal and merciful—rigidly unitarian.	The Koran keeps sin in the background	Paradise of houris, or virgins	No real atonement. Prayer, fasting, and pilgrimage. Occasional sacrifices are offered by the Arabs of the desert	Kismet, fatalism, force, polygamy, and divorce. Almsgiving
JUDAISM	Jehovah: Creator, personal, incorporeal, merciful, omnipotent, etc. The First and the Last.	Sin, only as an act, not as a state	Personal merit through obedience	Passover cakes. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving	The Orthodox regard the Talmud as more sacred than the Old Testament, and preach Zionism The Reformed are rationalistic, indifferent. eclectic
CHRISTIANITY	God is a Father and God is Love; emphasizes giving all glory to God.	Sin is a state of the heart, an attitude	The Kingdom of Heaven, at hand. Saved thro' Christ, to labor here, and enjoy heaven hereafter	Col. 1:24, filling up on our part "that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in our flesh," i.e., completing Christ's program of sacrifice, which he only inaugurated, and expects us to continue	The Kingdom realized—joy, peace, immortality, Aeonian life, service; "Go ye into all the world"

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